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'Substantial evidence' FBI behind King's death, Jesse charges

p. 3

By Jon Van

RECENTLY disclosed activity by the Federal Bureau of Investigation provides "substantial evidence" that the FBI conspired to murder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and Fred Hampton, the Rev. Jesse Jackson charged in a press conference yesterday.

The Rev. Mr. Jackson called for an extensive congressional investigation of the FBI, called for Congress to take over the operation of the FBI, and promised that Operation PUSH will file class action lawsuits against the FBI as a result of FBI surveillance of various black leaders.

The Rev. Mr. Jackson, head of Operation PUSH, also said he suspects an FBI role in the assassinations of President John Kennedy and his brother, Robert.

HE SAID THE "substantial evidence" of conspiracy to murder the black leaders is based on recently disclosed FBI interdepartmental memos in 1967 and 1968.

An FBI spokesman in Washington denied there is any evidence the FBI was involved in any murder plots.

The spokesman acknowledged the accuracy of FBI memos quoted by the Rev. Mr. Jackson. They were made public by the FBI last week under a court order obtained by a network television newsman.

THE REV. MR. Jackson said, recent news stories add weight to his charges.

The Tribune reported last week that FBI agents compiled extensive secret files on moderate black leaders as well as militants, and that the FBI urged Chicago police twice to raid a West Side Black Panther apartment before the raid was finally made by state's attorney's police in 1969, resulting in the deaths of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.

The Rev. Mr. Jackson said the memos and stories show the FBI "moved from mere serveillance to aggressiv activity —this was a sarch and destroy mission by an agency of the government.

FBI memos quoted by the Rev. Mr. Jackson were written in 1967 and 1968 in Washington to explain to district FBI offices how to conduct COINTELPRO, an agency program against extremist or militant political graups. COINTELPRO was abandoned in 1971, according to an FBI spokesman.

THE REV. MR. Jackson stressed one memo instructing FBI agents to "disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities of black nationalists, hate-type organizations and groupings, their leadership, spokesmen and supporters. . . ."

He also stressed that a memo called upon agents to "prevent the rise of a 'messiah', who could unify and electrify the militant black nationalist movement."